

mediate result was a publication of the fees charged by that official. Thereupon a mob was organized, which late in January 1759 rode to Edenton, seized Corbin, carried him to Enfield and there made him agree to appear at the next term of Granville court to stand trial for extortion. Thus certain people took the law into their own hands. If they should be prosecuted, the prosecutor would be Robert Jones, the Attorney General, and it is probable that at that time he was also prosecuting Searcy for libel. Consequently threats were made against him, and in May he informed the Governor and Council under oath that "he had heard it was intended by a great number of rioters to petition the court at Granville to silence him, the deponent, and that if no such order was made, to pull deponent by the nose and also to abuse the court." The Assembly recommended that the Governor take measures to suppress the unruly spirit in Granville, if necessary to use the militia. Governor Dobbs did issue a proclamation and certain persons were arrested, but the mob broke into the gaol and released them. Francis Corbin undertook to bring suit against the rioters, but desisted when he was informed that litigation would disclose the fact that he had done things unwarranted by the law.

Such is the story of discontent in Granville before 1765. In that year the cause of the people found a new champion in the person of George Sims, who wrote *An Address to the People of Granville County*. Again the burden of complaint is excessive fees, the extortionate fees of the lawyers and the arbitrary fees of Samuel Benton, Clerk of the Court; and in addition to fees, the collusion of the official class with creditors in making execution against property for debts. The document thus calls to mind the grievances of the Regulators. However Sims expresses full confidence in the British constitution, the colonial Assembly, and even the county justices; and to the justices as well as the Governor he proposes to appeal in seeking redress. In contrast, the Regulators lost faith in the Assembly and the judiciary. It is interesting to note that the Sims address was quoted by Hermon Husband, chief agitator of the cause of the Regulators, and that the only complete copy which exists is one sent by Sims to Thomas Person, prominent Granville politician and also one of the Regulators. Husband states that Sims was indicted for libel and that the suit against him was still pending in 1771.³

³ *Fan for Fanning and Touchstone for Tryon*, p. 13.